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Sent: 10/23/2018 4:47:26 PM
To: Jim Dick - Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (james.dick@wisconsin.gov) [james.dick@wisconsin.gov]
Subject: Rescheduling our call

Jim, I'm booked almost solid tomorrow and Thursday (and I've got a dream about taking Friday off) ... can we bump our call to next week?

One thing I did want to bring to your attention is this inquiry we received yesterday afternoon from the Star Tribune ... it seems likely you'll hear from the same reporter.

Request – Star Tribune (Josephine Marcotty) – DDL 10/25

I'm doing a story on water issues in Wisconsin, and it will include a description of the controversy around the Central Sands Dairy in Armenia. I understand the EPA has conducted monitoring of groundwater there, and I've seen the testing results you posted on the web site. They do show elevated levels of nitrate.

I'd like to know what the EPA's next steps are in this investigation. Some of the residents of Armenia said that they are waiting for the results of your testing that identifies whether the nitrate in groundwater is from fertilizer, manure, human waste or other sources. Are you going to release that publicly? If so, when?

They also say that the EPA will not release that identifying (isotope testing?) information to the public if it decides to take enforcement action against the Central Sands Dairy or other responsible party. Is that correct? If so, can you explain why would it not be made public even with an enforcement action?

And what will determine whether or not you take an enforcement action, and how long would it take if you do take such a step?

Several residents and their attorneys say they believe it's unlikely the EPA will take action. In part, that's because the EPA chose not to step in when residents in Kewaunee County, Wis. asked for federal intervention related to drinking water contamination by CAFOs. And they also say it's unlikely because Region 5 Administrator Cathy Stepp is the person who implemented many of the policies while at the Wisconsin DNR that have resulted in lax protection of water, including drinking water.

Can you respond to those two assertions? I ask because that's why many local residents are considering joining a law suit against Central Sands. They are not confident that the state or the EPA will take steps to solve the problem. And is Cathy Stepp overseeing this EPA investigation into Armenia's drinking water contamination now?